

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A plasma arc torch comprising:
 - a torch handle;
 - a torch head disposed within the torch handle;
 - a torch lead operable with the torch head;
 - a solenoid disposed within the torch handle and operable with the torch lead and the torch head to control a supply of gas; and
 - an activation member operable with the solenoid,wherein the activation member activates the solenoid such that gas flow is supplied from a power supply through the torch lead and to the torch head, and the activation member deactivates the solenoid such that the gas flow is terminated.

2. (Original) A plasma arc torch comprising:
 - a torch handle;
 - a torch head disposed within the torch handle;
 - a torch lead operable with the torch head;
 - a solenoid disposed within the torch handle and operable with the torch lead and the torch head to control a supply of gas; and
 - a trigger system operable with the solenoid,

wherein the trigger system activates the solenoid such that gas flow is supplied from a power supply through the torch lead and to the torch head, and the trigger system deactivates the solenoid such that the gas flow is terminated.

3. (Original) A method of operating a plasma arc torch, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a source of gas;

providing an activation member operable with a solenoid disposed within a handle of the plasma arc torch; and

operating the activation member such that the solenoid is activated, thereby providing the gas to the plasma arc torch.

4. (New) A plasma arc torch comprising:

a torch handle; and

a gas control device disposed proximate the torch handle,

wherein the gas control device allows gas pressure to build up local to the torch handle.

5. (New) A plasma arc torch comprising:

a torch head; and

a gas control device disposed within the torch head,

wherein the gas control device allows gas pressure to build up local to the torch head.

6. (New) A method of operating a plasma arc torch comprising the step of building up gas pressure local to a torch head of the plasma arc torch.

7. (New) A method of operating a plasma arc torch comprising the step of maintaining an operational gas pressure local to a torch head of the plasma arc torch.

8. (New) The method according to Claim 6 wherein gas pressure is built up local to the torch head to reduce restart times.